



PAS 2026

Boston, MA

Pediatric Policy Council Legislative Breakfast: Having Productive Conversations in a Divisive Political Environment

Saturday, April 25 | 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM EST

Location: Convention Center: 153 East

Pediatric advocates find themselves in the midst of competing crosscurrents. The Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement has brought renewed attention to the drivers of childhood chronic disease and a desire to improve the health and well-being of young people. At the same time, foundational elements of pediatrics like immunization and evidence-based public health interventions are facing significant headwinds, and scientific and public health expertise are viewed with growing suspicion. Join the Pediatric Policy Council for an interactive discussion with **Katelyn Jetelina, PhD, MPH, Founder and CEO of Your Local Epidemiologist** to learn more about how pediatric advocates and MAHA can engage in productive conversations and build partnerships to advance shared priorities. Mark Del Monte, JD, chief executive officer and executive vice president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and David Keller, MD, chair of the Pediatric Policy Council will help facilitate this timely discussion.

Featured speakers:

- Katelyn Jetelina, MPH, PhD – Your Local Epidemiologist
- David Keller, MD – Pediatric Policy Council
- Mark Del Monte, JD – American Academy of Pediatrics

Invest in Children to Let Children Thrive: A Pediatric Policy Council State of the Art Plenary

Friday, April 24 | 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM EST

Location: Convention Center: 106 West

Children are uniquely embedded in their families and communities, dependent on society's collective decisions to support their health and well-being. Investments in programs that support children are not just budgetary decisions – they are decisions with direct and lasting consequences for children's health. As the nation navigates shifting political priorities midway through the current presidential administration, join the Pediatric Policy Council for a discussion examining the investments children need to thrive, including access to healthcare, education, and other essential social supports. Speakers will assess the current policy landscape, highlight the policy supports needed to optimize child health, and underscore the critical importance of a renewed commitment to enhanced investments in child health and well-being. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of the vital role of investments in child health and how academic pediatricians can lead efforts to safeguard child health through effective advocacy and policy engagement.

Featured speakers:

- Kelly J. Kelleher, MD, MPH (Medicaid's Role in Helping Children Thrive)
- Eric Dearing (Promoting Thriving Children Through Education)
- Robert Sege, MD, PhD (Social Supports and Positive Childhood Experiences)

Pediatric Policy Council Sponsored Sessions

Advocacy in the Judicial Branch: The Role of Amici in Pediatric Health Policy

Monday, April 27 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Location: Convention Center: 212 West

Organizer: David Keller, MD

PAS SIG: Environmental Health | Executive Branch Advocacy Skills for Pediatricians

Time: Monday, April 27, 2026, 2:45pm - 4:15pm ET

Convention Center: 253 C East

Organizer: Ruth Etzel MD, PhD

Additional Relevant Policy and Advocacy Sessions

Medicaid: What's Happened and What's the Future

Friday, April 24 | 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM EST

Location: Convention Center: 204 West

Organizer: James Perrin, MD

APA SIG: Immunization | The Current State of Pediatric Vaccine Research, Advocacy, and Policy.

Where do we go from here?

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 8:00am - 9:30am ET

Location: Convention Center: 258 A East

Findings of the NASEM Committee on Strategies to Enhance Pediatric Health Research Funded by NIH

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 11:00am - 12:30pm ET

Location: Convention Center: 210 AB West

Organizer: Glenn Flores, MD

Honoring Dr. Benard Dreyer's Legacy: Continuing the Long Path to Eliminating Racism from Pediatrics

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 2:30pm - 4:00pm ET

Location: Convention Center: 205 AB West

Honoring Dr. Benard Dreyer's Legacy: Addressing Child Poverty in 2026 and Beyond

Monday, April 27 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Location: Convention Center: 205 AB East

Organizer: Arvin Garg, MD, MPH

APA Combined SIG: Serving the Underserved and Advocacy Training | Throwing a Life Jacket-How Pediatricians and Trainees Can Advocate for Families with Medicaid and Keep Access Afloat

Monday, April 27 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Location: Convention Center: 205 AB East